

Michigan United Conservation Clubs

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*Uniting Citizens
to Conserve,
Protect, and
Enhance
Michigan's
Natural
Resources and
Outdoor Heritage*

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Michigan United Conservation Clubs opposes HB 5711 and HB 5712. We are extremely concerned about exempting farm operations enrolled in the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) from environmental regulations. We also do not support exempting livestock production facilities from obtaining a water resources discharge permit for storm water discharges. The MAEAP is not a regulatory program and places no requirements on farms to protect natural resources. Our members strongly object to the idea that any person should be exempted from polluting our air or waters.

With that said, we are also supportive of the MAEAP. We recognize that sponsors of this legislation see this package of bills as providing incentives to farmers to enroll their farms in this program. We also wish to encourage farms to enroll in the program and would be happy to assist in developing other alternatives that don't pose the same level of risk to the state's water resources.

This legislature just passed landmark legislation that protected our ground and surface water quality bodies from harm. This legislation was successful because all of the stakeholders shared the goal of protecting the state's groundwater resources, providing that when stakeholders share the same mission, it is possible to resolve individual issues. We believe that the same spirit of cooperation could work on this package of bills. MUCC supports the mission of enrolling more farms into the MAEAP, we are happy to work on identifying means to accomplish that goal.

Support our efforts to conserve Michigan's natural resources by remembering MUCC in your contributions and planned giving.